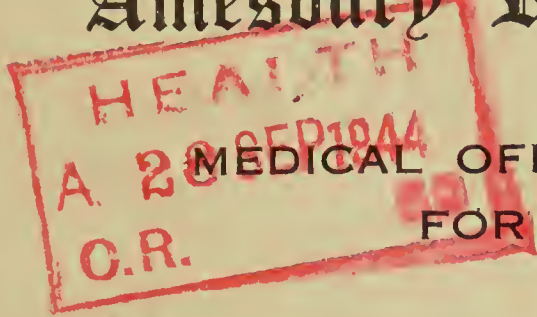


Amesbury Rural District Council.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1943

Mr. Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 24th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 10/44 dated February 15th, 1944.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 16,883.

Population—Estimated Mid. 1943—13,520

Area, 63,464 Acres

Rateable Value : £126,413

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £525 12 8

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1943 :
3,232

Births, 1943.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live	157	127	284 (27 Illegitimate)
Still	4	1	5 (2 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1943.		England and Wales
Live	21.0	Live 16.5
Still	0.35	Still 0.54

Birth Rate Average last 10 years 19.7
England and Wales " " 10 " 15.04

Deaths : Males, 61. Females 55. Total, 116.

Death Rate (1943) 8.5 Average last 10 years 9.9
England and Wales " 12.1 " " 10 " 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 1
Females 3. Total, 4.

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 14.09
England and Wales 49.0
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 38.0
England and Wales " " 10 " 55.8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	32 (8 Mil).	30 (8 Mil).	0
Diphtheria	0 (7 Mil).	0 (7 Mil).	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	0
Pneumonia	6 (4 Mil).	1 (4 Mil).	1
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Measles	171 (12 Mil).	2 (12 Mil).	0
Whooping Cough	6	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	1	1	0

Scarlet Fever. Altogether 40 cases were notified to me, eight of these being non-civilians from the Camps and all went to Hospital except two. There were no deaths.

Among the civilians they arose fairly evenly throughout the year and all over the district ; the one exception being nine cases which arose in a Nursery School (residential) which occurred in November and all within a few days of one another, owing to the drastic action taken, no further cases developed.

Diphtheria. No civilian case was notified during the year but seven non-civilians were notified as suffering from the disease. I have no means of knowing if these cases eventually turned out to be diphtheria or not. No deaths were recorded.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Two cases were notified, both went to Hospital and both recovered.

Pneumonia. Six civilian cases were notified and four non-civilian ; one civilian was treated in Hospital but died.

Erysipelas. Four cases were notified, of these, one was treated in an Institution and one died (not the one treated in the Institution).

Measles and Whooping Cough. 171 of the former and six of the latter were notified, these were among civilians , and in addition, 12 measles cases were notified among non-civilians.

Two civilians, one child aged five months and the other a transfer from Salisbury Infirmary, were admitted to Hospital ; the infant died, but this case is included by the Registrar General among the cases of Pneumonia and not among the measles.

Typhoid Fever. This case was in a child in an Institution, but did not get the disease while in the Institution but during its stay in Hospital for another condition, fortunately no further case arose, and the child recovered.

In addition to the above 13 cases of Dysentery (Sonne) 2 cases of acute polio-myelitis and four of recurrent malaria were notified to me by the Military Authorities.

Tuberculosis. 23 cases of all sorts were notified to me, of these, one was a transfer from another place and four were discharges from one of the services. Two of these notified cases died before the end of the year.

The Notifications were ;

Male Pulm.	.....	1 between 15-20.	.....	2 between 20-25.
		2 „ 25-35.	.....	2 „ 45-55.
		1 „ 55-65	.....	1 over 65.
Female Pulm.	.....	1 „ 1-5.	.....	1 between 20-25.
				1 „ 35-45.
Male Non-Pulm.	.....	1 „ 1-5.	.....	1 „ 5-10.
		2 „ 10-15.		
Female Non-Pulm.	1 „	1-5.	.....	2 „ 5-10.
	1 „	15-20.	.....	1 „ 25-35.
	2 „	45-55.		

The Deaths were :—

Male Pulm.	.....	1 between 20-25.	.....	2 „ 25-35.
Female Pulm.	.....	1 „ 15-20.	.....	1 „ 25-35.
Female Non-Pulm.	1 „	1-5.	.....	1 „ 25-35.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria. During the year 193 children under five and 68 between five and fifteen were immunised. This brings the total done since the commencement of the campaign to 786 under five, and 1759 between five and fifteen to the end of 1943. and the percentage estimated to have been done is 41.3% under five and 61.6% between five and fifteen.

WATER SUPPLY.

Amesbury Parish. This supply continues to operate satisfactorily, especially since a third pump was installed in 1942. This has greatly relieved the overworking of the existing pumps, caused by increased population, both civil and military.

The water-driven chlorinating plant began to give considerable trouble during the latter half of the year, and it was decided to substitute an electrically-driven machine in its place.

There were no extensions to the mains in 1943.

Three connections were made to the mains.

Bulford and Durrington Parishes. This supply continues to function satisfactorily. There were no extensions to the mains, and three new connections were made.

Shrewton. This supply continues to function satisfactorily. There were no extensions to the mains, and seven new connections were made.

Cholderton Parish. Remains satisfactory.

Frequent bacteriological examination of the above waters show them to be free from pollution and good potable waters.

Tilshead Parish. This village is supplied by a one inch service pipe from a nearby W.D. main. Seven standpipes, situated at various parts of the village, are taken from this service pipe.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Amesbury. The Sewage Disposal Works are functioning satisfactorily. Despite increased population the plant is able to cope with the intake, owing to the extensions made in 1942.

There were no new connections to, or extensions of the sewers during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council possesses an up-to-date destructor plant, together with tin and paper bailing machines.

The system of separate alternate collections of refuse and salvage materials in each village was continued during the year. The domestic "refuse" consisted mainly of ashes and other non-combustible materials, and this, in conjunction with labour shortage, made burning in the destructor extremely difficult, and at times impossible. Spare land adjoining the the Sewage Disposal Works is now used for the controlled tipping of ashes, etc., while any combustible material is dealt with by using the destructor.

The labour shortage was made more acute during the year by the calling up for military service of the second driver, but every effort is being made to make regular collections in each Parish.

HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING.

Work under the Housing Acts was, owing to shortage of staff, confined to following up complaints, etc. No routine survey was made.

This also applies to overcrowding, of which, owing to the shortage of houses, and military camps in the district, there are obviously quite a number of instances.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections. 1	No. of Defects. 2	Informal Notices. 3	Statutory Notices. 4	Remedied by 3. 5	Remedied by 4. 6	Remedied after verbal instructions only. 7
Nuisances ...	153	46	22	2	18	2	18
Slaughter- houses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is pre- pared ...	42	4	4	—	4	—	—
Cowsheds ...	244	80	17	—	14	—	56
Dairies and Milkstores							
Butcher's Shops ...	28	5	1	—	—	—	4
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	17	2	1	—	1	—	1
Bakehouses	20	6	—	—	—	—	6
Totals	505	143	45	2	37	2	85

Not classified above :—

Housing Inspections	68
Infectious Disease Visits	20
Factory Acts	18
Unclassified Visits and inspections—drainage, refuse collection, bye-laws, etc.	165
Total number of Visits	776

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers Registered (1943)	80
„ „ Retail Purveyors Registered (1943)	37
„ „ Certificates Issued (Producers) during 1943	13
„ „ „ „ (Retailers) „ „	7

During part of the year, the Sanitary Inspector co-operated with The War Agricultural Executive Committee in the Ministry of Agriculture's National Milk Testing Advisory Scheme. A number of advisory visits were paid to producers who failed the keeping quality test.

Meat and Foods. Although no regular meat inspection has been carried out since the closure of the Government Slaughterhouse last year, routine visits were made to butchers' shops for meat inspection, but no action was found necessary.

Regular inspection of food in provision stores was carried out, and during the year the following articles of food were condemned :—

Tinned Meat	.....	.....	.....	1269 lbs.
Fish	.....	.....	.....	84 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	.....	.....	.....	366 lbs.
Fruit	.....	.....	.....	193 lbs.
Milk	.....	.....	.....	227 tins.

These figures may appear high, but the majority of these condemnations were in respect of food in Service Institute Warehouses. Most of the canned food condemned was imported.

Rodent Control. In compliance with the direction of the Ministry of Food, a survey of rat infested land was carried out during the year. As the "land" defined by the direction did not include agricultural land and buildings, which, in a Rural District, house most of the rat population, not a very great number of infestations were found. Appropriate action in all cases was being taken by the end of the year.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	61	55	Appendicitis	2	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Other digest. diseases		2
Cerebrospinal Fever			Nephritis	1	
Scarlet Fever			Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Whooping Cough			Other maternal causes		
Diphtheria			Premature birth		
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.	3	2	Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.		1
Other form of Tuberc.		2	Suicide	2	
Syphilitic Diseases			Road Traffic Act	2	1
Influenza	6	1	Other violent causes	3	
Measles			All other causes	5	5
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.			Total	1	3
Cancer of b. cav; and			Legitimate	1	3
oesoph (M.)			Illegitimate		
uterus (F)		2	Live Births		
Cancer of stomach and			Total	157	127
duodenum	2	1	Legitimate	141	116
Cancer of breast		4	Illegitimate	16	11
Cancer of all other sites	11	2	Stillbirths		
Diabetes			Total	4	1
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	3	5	Legitimate	2	1
Heart disease	16	16	Illegitimate	2	
Other dis. of circ. syst.		3	Population		13,520
Bronchitis	1	5			
Pneumonia	2	1			
Other Resp. diseases	1	2			
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1				
Diarrhoea under two years					